(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not, arise.

Hubli-Ankola rail line

2699. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the Hubli-Ankola new railway line project in Karnataka;

(b) the amount, so far, spent;

(c) whether the Forest Department has given clearance for taking up of the project in the forests;

(d) if so, when the clearance was given; and

(e) if not, the steps proposed to be taken to get the early clearance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Land acquisition, earthwork and bridge works have been taken up on Hubli-Kirvatti section. Proposal for diversion of forest land for this project has been taken up with the State Government.

(b) Rs. 53.90 crore has been incurred upto March,2005.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Matter has been taken up with State Government for early forwarding of the application to the Ministry of Environment & Forest.

Khanna rail accident

2700. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since examined the findings and follow up action on the Khanna rail accident report; and

(b) whether all the affected persons/families of Khanna (Punjab) rail accident have got the compensation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Out of 317 claims cases filed in Railway Claims tribunal, compensation has been paid in 314 claims cases and 3 claims cases are pending in High Court, Chandigarh.

Tatkal Reservation Scheme

2701. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rail passengers can now get confirmed railway tickets under the Tatkal Reservation Scheme 72 hours in advance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that under this scheme, a passenger has to purchase ticket upto the termination place of the train;

(d) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;

(e) whether any corrective measures are being taken in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The advance reservation period under Tatkal Reservation scheme has been enhanced to three days i.e. in respect of train leaving on say 4th January 2006, Tatkal booking will commence at 8 am on 1st January, 2006.

(c) and (d) To ensure optimum utilization of available accommodation under the scheme it was stipulated that the booking under Tatkal scheme will be done only from originating to terminating point of the train with boarding facility from intermediate station. An exception has been given in case of those trains, whcih have an important intermediate station having adequate quota. In such a case Tatkal reservation scheme is available for the passengers originating from this intermediate station to destination of the train.

(e) and (f) Instructions have been issued to zonal railways to earmark some Tatkal accommodation at one intermediate station in those trains in